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X 1011 / Russia
 X 1012 / John STENNIS
 X 1013 / 15-00149R000700380011-5
 X 1014 / 1-1

Mentioned were 42 high performance jet fighters, heavy and medium tanks, antitank guns, field artillery pieces, rocket launchers and a minimum of 17,500 military personnel.

But, at the President's news conference on Wednesday last, this colloquy took place:

Question: Mr. President, there's still a lot of discussion in the Congress—Senator Lausche among others—on the increasing buildup militarily of Cuba. Is there anything you can say that would be in any way encouraging about the removal of Russian troops, or of the military situation in Cuba?

Answer: We do not have any evidence of increasing military build-up by the Soviet Union. I think at previous press conferences I've given an answer to the question of how many Russians were there, and the comment in regard to the withdrawal of Soviet troops. There has not been a satisfactory withdrawal as yet. But we have no evidence that there is a number coming in larger than going out.

Question: Pardon me, sir, I was thinking more in terms of military equipment going into Cuba.

Answer: Yes, I understand that. We have no evidence that there is an increasing military build-up in Cuba. The intelligence community has not found that.

THEY LOST BECAUSE

In the preceding dialogue, the important words to remember are: "The intelligence community has not found that."

This is the same "intelligence community" which last summer mistook Soviet troops for "civilian technicians," and estimated Soviet "personnel" in Cuba at 5,000.

This is the same "intelligence community" which, notwithstanding human-source reports, could not identify the presence in Cuba of Russian-organized ground combat forces until October 28, although some of them had been there since last July.

The prepared the investigating subcommittee of the Senate exonerates the "intelligence community" of the charge that a gap existed in our photographic reconnaissance over Cuba from September 5 to October 14.

But the committee does say "the deficiency in the performance of the intelligence community appears to have been in the evaluation and assessment of the accumulated data. Moreover, there seems to have been a disinclination on the part of the intelligence community to accept and believe the ominous portent of the information which had been gathered."

In addition, the committee "the intelligence community invariably adopted the most optimistic estimate possible with respect to the information available. This is in sharp contrast to the customary military practice of assuming the worst situation which might have been established by the accumulation of evidence."

PHILLOSOPHICAL

The Senate subcommittee, in testimony taken from top officials of the CIA and the Pentagon, makes the startling statement that "intelligence community analysts" were strongly influenced in their philosophical judgment that it was "contrary to Soviet policy to introduce strategic missiles in to Cuba."

The committee also says that the intelligence community "was not aware of the fact that they were being misled by the false information provided by the intelligence community and that the intelligence community had been removed from the picture."

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Cuba a Persistent Threat So Long as New Frontier Philosophy Remains Unchanged

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. WILLIAM C. CRAMER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1963

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, the formidable Soviet military strength in Cuba can no longer be hidden from the American people and the New Frontier's cries of "politics" as an answer to its critics no longer holds water with the release of the bipartisan Stennis committee report.

What is most alarming about the Stennis committee report is the "philosophical judgment" of the New Frontier's advisers which was 100-percent wrong about Russia's intentions both before, during, and after the Cuban crisis of last October. It clearly evidences what many of us have been saying all along—that the Kennedy administration does not understand the Communist menace, its devious ways, its double talking, and does not know how to cope with it, even when confronted with credible information of a monumental doublecross.

In line with the Stennis committee report and recognizing the persistent Soviet threat in this hemisphere, I am inserting in the Record at this point an article which appeared in the May 26, 1963, issue of the Miami Herald:

VIEWS ON THE NEWS

Last week, I stated here that Soviet military strength in Cuba "is still very formidable."

no evidence of a military buildup in Cuba," we can well ask on the basis of the past record, "How reliable is the information?"

AND NONPARTISAN

I believe the Senate subcommittee, with Senator JOHN STENNIS as chairman, has performed an invaluable service for the country by revealing that—as in the days before Castro—our intelligence evaluations are too often influenced by the philosophical leanings of the evaluators.

It is significant, too, that the full report was unanimously approved by Chairman STENNIS and the full subcommittee, consisting of Democratic Senators BROWDER SYMINGTON, of Missouri; HENRY M. JACKSON, of Washington; and Strom THURMOND, of South Carolina, and Republican Senators LAWRENCE SALTONSTALL, of Massachusetts; MARSHALL CLARK SMITH, of Maine, and BARRY GOLDWATER, of Arizona.